



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FLORIDA MAN SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR HIS CONVICTION OF BEING FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, March 14, 2008, that Todd Douglas Johnson, a resident of Juno Beach, Florida, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 30 months for his conviction of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess imposed the sentence on Johnson, age 23, of 1744 Ardley Road, Juno Beach, Florida.

According to information presented to the court by Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White, the defendant came to the attention of law enforcement on October 19, 2006, while they were investigating a potential bank robbery. While serving warrants, a Deputy U.S. Marshal and an officer from the Alaska Fugitive Task Force noticed suspicious activity outside of the First National Bank located at 12th Avenue and Muldoon. Further investigation revealed that Johnson was inside the bank with a loaded firearm, and his associate, who also carried a loaded firearm, was in a vehicle parked outside of the bank. While inside the bank, Johnson appeared to be walking and looking around, while another of his associates conducted a bank transaction. Bank employees reported to law enforcement that Johnson's presence made them nervous, and one teller had her hand poised over an alert button. Johnson denies that he and his associates were planning a bank robbery, and he said that he wanted a firearm for protection because he does not trust people. In the past, Johnson has admitted to being a member of the "Latin Kings" gang in Florida.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Burgess noted the need to protect the public. In addition to the sentence of 30 months, Judge Burgess ordered that, as a condition of supervised release, Johnson must serve an additional six-month period in a community resource center, or "half-way house," upon his release from federal custody. In addition to the felony conviction in this case, the defendant has a prior felony conviction for delivery of cocaine, a second-degree felony, from Broward County, Florida.

Mr. Cohen commended the The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, along with the U.S. Marshals Service, the Alaska State Troopers, and the Anchorage Police Department for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Johnson. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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